CORONADO AND THE CROSS

Francisco Vanquez de Coronado took the territory that is now Kansas, for King Charles of Spain, in 1541, before any person who came over on the Mayflower had been born. Accompanied by Father Juan de Padilla and thirty picked horsemen, he penetrated the heart of the United States. Fother Padilla returned in 1542, to continue his task of converting the Indians and reported that a cross erected the year before (near the present town of Lyons) was still standing and venerated by the people.

Father Padilla was slain by a hostile group of Indians in 1542, becoming the first Christian martyr in the United States. The present cross, four miles west of Lyons, on U. S. Highway 56, was built by the Knights of Columbus of Kansas.

(THE PICTURE IS ADAPTED FROM A WASH DRAWING BY F. A. COOPER OF WICHITA, KANSAS)

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